OUR TIME IS NOW, TORONTO

If only those tourists can find us on the map

metroNEWS

Lotto MAX

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Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 3-5, 2017 | High -4°C/Low -10°C Cloudy

TAXI ASSAULT VERDICT

'Rape culture is when women who do the right thing have to ask for justice from the wrong person'

A HALIFAX CAB DRIVER WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT — AFTER THE VICTIM WAS FOUND TO BE THREE TIMES OVER THE LEGAL LIMIT OF ALCOHOL. OUR COLUMNIST RESPONDS.

Vicky Mochama
Metro | Toronto

An extremely drunk woman cannot consent to sex. Any public servant who continues to believe she can is making the world unsafe for women.

Judge Gregory Lenehan ruled Wednesday that a taxi driver accused in a Halifax sexual assault case was not guilty because a lack of consent could not be proved.

"Clearly," he said, "a drunk can consent."

This is not true. Our understanding of consent has evolved but Lenehan's is woefully outdated. Consent must be affirmative and ongoing. Consent cannot be compromised. A judge presiding over a sexual assault case should know that.

The taxi driver, Bassam Al-Rawi, was charged after a woman was found in his car. Having entrusted her safety to the driver, a stranger, the complainant's inebriation only maximizes the horror of the situation.

Continued on page 9

SAFESPACE
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THE JUDGE
A petition for a formal inquiry against Judge Gregory Lenehan is in the works — as is a protest over the verdict

THE ACCUSED
Bassam Al-Rawi will never drive for a company in the city again, says Halifax Taxi Association head

metroWEEKEND

HOW JACKMAN BECAME LOGAN

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Your essential daily news

Jeff Sessions recuses himself from probe of Trump's interactions with Russia. **World**

Graphic illustration

NEWCOMERS

Creative book shows issues immigrant women face

My awareness of people of different sexual orientations... before I wasn't very informed. I didn't know they faced difficulties even here.
Mona Barkat
Récits

Mona Barkat, 34, is one of the immigrant women involved with the OCASI program of producing a graphic novel by immigrant women, for immigrant women. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Aloneness.

It hits first, long before the loneliness does, long before the eager anticipation of a new life blends with the realities of a new country.

Every year, when more than 100,000 women enter this country, sometimes alone, sometimes with their families but always with their dreams and expectations, the aloneness is a reset button, a hopeful one, representing new beginnings and endless possibilities.

The first tentative friends, the first shopping mall, the first grocery store, the first snow… and then, for some women, the first brush with abuse.

Verbal, sexual, racial.

That's when, amid the chaos, loneliness gushes in like a ferocious whirlwind, shattering lives. That's when the aloneness becomes isolation.

One in three women in Canada experiences sexual violence and most don't report it. If picking up the pieces is challenging for Canadian women, those who are bereft of their societal networks are left especially vulnerable to the abuse and cruelty of identity-based prejudice.

A graphic novel launched March 2 captures four stories of newcomer women in quick read format. Telling Our Stories: Immigrant Women's Resilience is a free novel, in a project funded by the provincial Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. It is the result of a creative venture between the OCASI, the Ontario agency serving immigrants and MOFIF, the agency for francophone immigrants.

The four stories — of domestic abuse, workplace abuse and date rape — are composites gathered from the experiences of about 40 women from the GTA at four-day workshops and illustrated by Coco Guzman, an immigrant, who also facilitated the workshops.

Participant Mona Barkat, 34, a lawyer from Algeria, arrived in 2014. She is francophone but spoke in English of the typical newcomer challenges, futile job hunts, the "Canadian experience" barrier that stubbornly refuses to come down and the rather disheartening decision to start from scratch.

In Algeria, she says, "women face sexual and psychological abuse, but if they say 'I was abused', they will say it's your fault. They always blame the woman."

Well, well.

Her biggest discovery in the process of doing the workshop? "My awareness of people of different sexual orientations… before I wasn't very informed. I didn't know they faced difficulties even here."

For victims of sex abuse, the only crime that's not declining in Canada, the most critical question is, "Whom can I call?" Diving into the labyrinthine justice system is intimidating. Friends can be a source of support, but friendships take time to form.

For, looming on our southern horizon is a mass of humanity fleeing persecution and criminalization and looking for safe haven. The abused among them, too, will need to know that in Canada at least, they need not be alone. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ACTIVISM!

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD THIS WEEKEND

Fight Islamophobia
While the Canadian Coalition of Concerned Citizens will stage a rally to oppose Islam, another group will counter them with messages of love, inclusion and diversity. Both events take place at City Hall on March 4, and start at 11 a.m.

Toxic Toronto
While the who's who of the world's mining industry are in Toronto for the 85th convention of Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, activists will lead a downtown bus tour beginning at noon on Sunday at 252 Bloor St. W.

Singing for social change
Sing For Joy will perform songs that tackle social change — subjects will include justice, solidarity, diversity and courage. The event takes place Sunday from 2 p.m. at 100 Harbord St.

Toronto DIGEST

CRIME

Superintendent charged in sexual assault case

A building superintendent is facing charges after a sexual assault investigation at apartment blocks in west-end Toronto.

Toronto police say they are looking into complaints that a man was allegedly soliciting sex from residents of buildings in the Lawrence Avenue West and Weston Road area.

Thivakaran Yogeswaran, 34, of Toronto has been charged with five counts of sexual assault, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, and sexual assault to a person under the age of 16.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLITICS

Candidate pulls out of Liberal nomination race

A candidate has pulled out of a Liberal nomination fight for a federal byelection in Ontario because she says the race was set up to favour one of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's aides.

Juanita Nathan issued a statement Thursday night saying her efforts to appeal to the party's leadership have fallen on deaf ears and that she won't try for the nomination in the Toronto-area riding of Markham Thornhill.

Nathan was competing for the party's nomination against Mary Ng, one of Trudeau's senior staffers.

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CASH $ MAX PAYDAY LOANS

Protecting the 'silent majority'

ROADS

Bike advocate fears city using term to ignore consultation

David Hains
Metro | Toronto

Toronto's Public Works Committee asked city staff on Tuesday to study more ways to "protect the silent majority of users."

The vote — and the wording — drew criticism from pedestrian advocates who have followed the process for years.

Dylan Reid, the spokesperson for pedestrian advocacy group Walk Toronto, expressed disappointment in the committee's decision, which sent the report back to the deputy city manager.

"The recommendations were the result of a long process with many stakeholders," said Reid. He expressed frustration that the finalized report will see further delays for requests that he fears could undermine Toronto's complete streets guidelines.

Simcoe Street with cycle tracks, from a Complete Streets photo contest. HARRY CHOI/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

One request that passed the committee 5–1 asked for "a decision-making framework and metrics that protect the silent majority of users and provide a balance between localized needs and desires."

> **The mention is kind of perverse.**
> Dylan Reid

"The mention of 'the silent majority' is kind of perverse," said Reid, who says it seems like a way to ignore the extensive evidence and consultations that support complete streets.

City staff started working on the complete streets guidelines in 2013 and consulted more than 80 stakeholder groups. More than 40 events were held to solicit public feedback.

Coun. Stephen Holyday, who moved the package of requests, told Metro that while he respects the city staff work on the guidelines, more needs to be done.

"I support the aspirational notion of complete streets," he told Metro. But he added that "it's a process that we're just not finished" and needs more study on the practicalities.

As an example, he said, the proposed guidelines don't reflect the Etobicoke street he lives on, and his neighbours would be upset if guidelines were implemented over their objections.

"I am not convinced that every street has to have a sidewalk," he said, adding that with constrained space and competing transportation methods, the city must set priorities that reflect how the street is used.

'COMPLETE'

According to the City of Toronto, **complete streets** are "designed to be safe for all users, such as people who walk, bicycle, take transit or drive and people of varying ages and levels of ability."

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Tivo, a nine-year-old cross of a Poodle and King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, with owner Eric Shabsove, right, and his son Jordan. **Tivo survived an attack by a coyote** at the family's Beach-area home last October. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE PHOTOS

ANIMALS

City warns owners to keep pets safe as coyotes come out

Eric Shabsove had never heard anything like it. There was a terrible screaming coming from his Beaches-area backyard on an otherwise quiet October evening.

Running outside, Shabsove saw a coyote carrying away his family dog, Tivo.

"I ran as fast as I can after it, and when it hit the back fence it just dropped my dog and took off," said Shabsove.

Tivo, a 23-pound Poodle-Cavalier King Charles Spaniel mix, needed close to 60 staples to close his wounds, and spent four days recovering in the Shabsoves' bed.

"It was hard to watch," Shabsove said. "Our kids didn't know if he was going to make it or not."

Now, over four months later, Tivo is doing well.

But Shabsove, whose home backs onto the Glen Stewart Ravine near Kingston Road and Main Street, still regularly hears coyotes yelping at night.

More than 70 staples were needed to close Tivo's wounds.

It's peak season for coyote sightings, said Brent Patterson, a researcher with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

"The young animals that were born last year have spent most of their life in their parents' territory (but now) are starting to disperse and are wandering around looking for their own mate, their own territory," Patterson said.

The City of Toronto tweeted Wednesday that seeing coyotes in Toronto "is normal" at this time of year, and directed citizens to online materials on what to do if you encounter a coyote.

Nearly 350 coyote sightings were reported to the City of Toronto in 2015.

Statistics on 2016 sightings are still being compiled and will be made public about a month from now, said city spokesperson Bruce Hawkins.

Coyotes generally steer clear of humans but, Toronto Animal Services says, they are attracted to urban areas by the prospect of food and shelter.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man loses appeal in pregnancy case

COURT

Doctor sued sexual partner who said she was on the pill

News flash: Unprotected sex between a man and a woman can lead to pregnancy.

An overwhelmingly obvious fact, you say? And yet, it was once again at the heart of a court case in which a Toronto doctor sued a former sexual partner for $4 million, alleging fraud, deceit and fraudulent misrepresentation.

Known only as PP, he alleges the woman known as DD lied about taking birth control when they hooked up a few times without a condom in 2014 after meeting through a mutual friend.

After DD said she was pregnant, PP sued her. He lost in the lower courts when a judge threw out his statement of claim without giving him permission to amend it. So PP appealed to the Ontario Court of Appeal — and sure enough, PP lost yet again.

"In his words, 'he wanted to meet a woman, fall in love, get married, enjoy his life as husband with his wife and then, when he and his wife thought the time was 'right,' to have a baby,'" Justice Paul Rouleau wrote on behalf of a unanimous three-judge panel, that included Justices William Hourigan and Grant Huscroft, in a decision released Thursday.

> **He pleaded that he consented ... on the understanding that she was using effective contraception.**
> Justice Paul Rouleau

"He pleaded that he consented to sexual intercourse with DD on the understanding that she was using effective contraception."

So, as Rouleau wrote, can an "aggrieved father" recover damages from his former sexual partner for "involuntary parenthood?"

And can an alleged "fraudulent misrepresentation" on the part of the mother — whether she was taking birth control as prescribed — render the father's consent to sex invalid and therefore open up the mother to being sued for sexual battery?

The judges answered both questions with a resounding "no."

"It is to be hoped that the appellant will, as the child's father, contribute to the child's upbringing in a positive way," Rouleau wrote.

PP, who is already paying child support and wants to have a relationship with the child, has said he was not looking to avoid his obligations, but wanted the mother to compensate him nonetheless for the emotional, professional and/or financial impact the birth of the child has had on him.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GTAA

GTAA Annual Public Meeting

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) hereby gives notice of its Annual Public Meeting.

The GTAA is the operator of Toronto Pearson International Airport, the largest airport in Canada and one of the largest in North America in terms of passenger and air cargo traffic. In 2016, more than 44 million passengers travelled through the airport.

Date/Time: Thursday, May 4, 2017, 12:30 p.m.
Location: Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre,
Muskoka Ballroom II & III,
801 Dixon Road, Toronto

Complimentary parking available at registration table.

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Toronto is the gateway for international tourists to Canada, but more could be persuaded to stay in the city for a few days, says Frederic Dimanche, director of the Ted Rogers School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

U.S. tourism's loss could be our gain

BUSINESS

After Muslim ban, Toronto has new appeal for visitors — if they can find us

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Toronto could have a banner year attracting international tourists given the current U.S. climate, says one expert, but first they'll have to find us on a map.

Frederic Dimanche, director of the Ted Rogers School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, said the recent dip in U.S. tourism could make travellers take a second look at Toronto.

According to several U.S. travel sites and apps, tourism took a nose-dive with the announcement of the Muslim travel ban in January.

"Now that the U.S. brand is coming down in terms of reputation, it's fantastic timing for us to take advantage," said Dimanche.

Dimanche, who hails from Europe, said many on that continent have heard of Toronto but don't know exactly where it is.

"For them it's somewhere between Vancouver and the East Coast," he said.

"I think we have to do a better job at putting Toronto on the map and to show that it's near some other attractions, it's not far from Niagara."

+ EFFECT

Cheapflights.com saw international searches for flights to the U.S. drop 38 per cent following the executive order Muslim ban, the New York Times reported.

Toronto especially "has a card to play with respect to business travel and conventions," he added.

Organizers may not want to hold conferences in Las Vegas or Orlando, and it would be wise to "develop some specific strategies to target some of those meeting planners to attract them north of the border," he said.

"That's something we should keep an eye on," Dimanche said.

Coun. Michael Thompson, who chairs the city's Economic Development and Culture Committee, said it's too early to see if the slump in U.S. tourism has translated into more visitors for Toronto.

The city has always tried to position itself as a great place to travel, and now that intolerance is being preached elsewhere it's the perfect time to focus on our strengths of diversity and openness, he said.

"In light of everything, I think it would be in our own interest to continue to feature Toronto and Canada," he said.

"If at the end of the day people are looking for other options and opportunities in terms of places to visit, then Canada's on their list."

RESTAURANTS

Take a Greektown Trip with Airbnb

Opa!

Airbnb will begin offering foodie tours of Greektown as Toronto becomes the first Canadian city to be part of the company's new experiential Trips travel service Friday.

Trips, which has launched in 13 cities since November, is about connecting travellers and "expert" hosts, who guide visitors through an authentic, local taste of their destination, said Andrea La Mesa, Airbnb's San Francisco-based director of Trips.

> **You get access to neighbourhoods but also to people.**
> Andrea La Mesa

La Mesa, who was visiting Toronto for the second time, called Trips "the most significant development for Airbnb since we started, because for the first time we're moving beyond homes and embracing the entire trip."

"We believe cities have so much to offer especially in neighbourhoods that are off the beaten path and are hard for travellers to discover," he said.

The expansion of its mission comes as Airbnb prepares for an initial public offering, although there's no clear timeline when that might happen, according to a November report in the New York Times.

Trips works off the Airbnb app and doesn't require the user to book Airbnb accommodation, so locals can consider booking an experience too.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CULTURE

Theatre in condo building is a first

To build the city's first dedicated theatre space east of the Don River, and the first on the main floor of a condo building, Chris Abraham of Streetcar Crowsnest devoted six years of planning and $11 million.

He knew he'd either pull off his ambitious scheme — which included plans to offer event rentals and a myriad of cultural programming, not just plays — or destroy a three-decades-old theatre company in the process.

His to be or not to be roulette worked, and Streetcar Crowsnest just opened at Carlaw Avenue and Dundas Street East.

Opening in January, the finished space has two black-box style spaces, a lobby and an adjoining restaurant. The space's schedule is crammed with 11 performances over the next four months, some from Crow's but many from other nomadic companies Crow's happily supports. There's also other programming such as a March Break camp, storytelling nights and performance classes for kids.

The smaller theatre at the Streetcar Crowsnest theatre on Carlaw Avenue.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Celebrating Toronto's young people

COMMUNITY

A week will be dedicated to the city's youth

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

For the first time in Toronto's history, there will be a dedicated week to celebrate youth.

Efforts are underway to officially designate May 6-13 as the annual Youth Week Toronto, pending council's blessing at its March 28 meeting. With over 500,000 youth in Toronto, the staff report stated that young people are a vital part of the city's cultural, social and economic fabric.

Through various community building activities, supporters hope the events will create stronger and more meaningful civic engagement. "This is a great opportunity to evaluate institutions to ensure that young people actually have an equal voice and a seat at the table," said Kevin Vuong, co-chair of Toronto Youth Equity Strategy.

EVENTS

Youth Week Toronto includes the STOMP Urban Dance Competition, district-wide sports events, a career fair and more.

Vuong worries that the lack of youth representation makes it more difficult to address issues in a meaningful way.

He cites last summer's Youth Day at the CNE, where three youth were arrested and the solution by organizers was to discontinue the special day.

He sees the same lack of engagement from Toronto Police. A survey by the Toronto Youth Cabinet in 2015 found nearly 40 per cent of all people charged were youth, yet young people have no representation on the police advisory board.

"Yes, you can be a 50-year-old excellent youth worker, but your perspectives may change as you age," said Vuong.

"It would make much more sense to have some representation from youth themselves."

Kevin Vuong says young people must have proportional representation.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

5 things to see at the Bike Show

Billed as the largest exhibition of its kind in the world, the Toronto International Bicycle Show has shown off the latest in bikes, gear and gadgets for 31 years. From Friday to Sunday, cyclists will occupy 200,000 square feet of space at Exhibition Place's Better Living Centre, where organizers note there will be "free bicycle parking." Here's what attendees can expect this year.

DAVID HAINS METRO

1 175 exhibits

There will be 175 exhibitors at the bike show, including manufacturers, retailers, tour operators and more.

2 Arrive early

Brian Miles, president and owner of the bike show, says the best time to avoid crowds is early in the morning.

3 Bike polo

If you'd like to do more than gawk at the Trinity Bellwoods bike polo hobbyists, check out the weekend tournament that features teams from around the world.

4 Time trials

Want to unleash your inner Clara Hughes and Curt Harnett? Now's your chance. A mini-velodrome designed for the show will host time trials.

5 Plenty for the kids to do

Of course, there's something for the kids too. There will be face painting and glitter tattoos, and your little ones can test ride tricycles around a track. Whether that sounds adorable or like something out of The Shining depends on your perspective.

WINTER IN CANADA
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TAXI ASSAULT VERDICT

Canadians outraged after not-guilty verdict

COURT

Hundreds call for probe after driver walks free

Cody McEachern & Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Anger is growing across Canada against a judge who found a taxi driver not guilty of sexual assault this week. Petitions have been launched calling for an investigation against Judge Gregory Lenehan as people organize to protest his latest verdict.

More than 3,000 people had signed the main petition by Thursday evening, the day after Lenehan's decision allowed Bassam Al-Rawi to walk free.

Bassam Al-Rawi was charged after being found with an unconscious and mostly naked woman in his cab on May 23, 2015.

During his trial last month, the Crown presented a toxicology report showing the 26-year-old complainant would've had a concentration of between 223 and 244 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood when police found her.

"Clearly a drunk can consent," Lenehan said in his decision.

The comments sent a tide of uproar across the country and spurred many to speak out.

The online petition calls the judge's views of consent "antiquated and dangerous."

"He should not be in a position to hand down decisions allowing sexual predators to go free," it reads.

Multiple protests have been planned for next week in Halifax.

"The point is to cause a disruption," said Amanda Dodsworth, one of organizers. "We want to be seen and be heard, and what better way to do that than with a couple hundred people marching down the street. There are a lot of angry people, and they need an outlet to voice their opinion."

Judge Lenehan when he was a Crown prosecutor in 2009. COURTESY CBC

Leah Parsons, the mother of Rehtaeh Parsons has added her voice to those demanding a review of Lenehan.

Parsons' 17-year-old daughter committed suicide in April 2013 following months of bullying related to an explicit photo of her and a boy that was shared around her high school. A teen boy was charged with child pornography in that case and was sentenced to 12 months probation after a trial in Lenehan's court.

A review into how police and the Crown handled the Parsons case found "errors from start to finish."

"For this man to actually walk free after all of that evidence? It is just sickening," Parsons said Thursday. "It's sending such a horrible, horrible message to other victims of assault. How are they going to come forward?

"He obviously has his own perceptions about what is consent, and that is the problem we see everywhere. He should definitely be reviewed by somebody independent, somebody outside of this province."

Police and judges need proper training for dealing with sexual assault cases, she said. Everyone needs to be on the same page regarding issues of consent and how victims behave following traumatic events, she added.

Women help each other with #HaliLadyCab

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

In light of a judge's verdict that found a taxi driver not guilty of sexual assault, Alana Canales said she wanted to move the conversation away from what the complainant should've done differently to, "I'm here for you if you need me."

Canales started the hashtag #HaliLadyCab Wednesday evening to identify women on Twitter who would be willing to pick up anyone for free who felt uncomfortable taking a taxi in light of Bassam Al-Rawi's acquittal, and last year's spike of alleged sexual assaults in cabs.

Alana Canales JEFF HARPER/METRO

"I don't know if anyone will ever ask me for a ride late at night, but I do know that having me as an option is valuable," Canales said.

As of Thursday afternoon, at least six others on Twitter had added the hashtag to their bios.

TAXI ASSOCIATION

'He will have no choice but to go independent'

The head of the Halifax Taxi Association says Bassam Al-Rawi "will never drive for a cab company in the HRM again." Dave Buffett, president of the association, said he doubts Al-Rawi will ever get his full taxi licence back, but if he does he will have to work independently. "All the brokers have discussed it ... none of the taxi brokers in HRM are willing to let him drive for their company," Buffet said.

CODY MCEACHERN/FOR METRO

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TAXI ASSAULT VERDICT

Again, a vulnerable woman cannot consent.

Vicky Mochama
Metro | Toronto

COLUMN CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Now, however, instead of safeguarding her trust and that of other women, some institutions have supported the man charged, and acquitted, in her attack.

The city's licensing committee, composed of city councillors, voted in August 2015, two months after the incident, to reinstate the driver's taxi licence with the conditions that he is not allowed to drive between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. and has to have a camera in his car.

That said, it appears he didn't file the paperwork required to start driving again.

He does not work for his former employer, Bob's Taxi; however, the licence allows him to act as an independent driver and take fares.

The judge's ruling, too, is a failure to protect women. While the judge acknowledges the moral obligation that the driver had to deliver the complainant home safely, he demonstrates a clear lack of knowledge on consent.

"(The complainant) might very well have been capable of appearing lucid but drunk, and able to direct, ask, agree, or consent to any number of different activities," Lenehan said.

The complainant was found passed out and undressed in the cab while the driver tried to hide her underwear. Toxicology reports shown in court revealed her blood alcohol content to be nearly triple the legal limit.

Again, a vulnerable woman cannot consent.

The councillors who relicensed the driver must be held to account.

So too must Judge Lenehan. (This is the same judge who issued a light punishment to Rehtaeh Parsons' tormentors.)

An outpouring of complaints are now being sent to the provincial and national Judicial Council. Provincial intervention may be unprecedented in Nova Scotia.

It has been at least 15 years since a public complaint against a provincially-appointed judge has been referred to the Judicial Council, said a spokesperson for the provincial law courts to the Halifax Examiner.

Removing the judge is just one step.

The entire taxi industry must commit to educating their drivers not to commit sexual assault as well as no longer employing drivers who — conviction or not — have sex with passengers. Feeling unsafe and left without justice, women in Halifax are already organizing to drive one another around by using a hashtag.

Rape culture is when women who do the right thing, like taking a cab home when they're drunk, have to ask for justice from the wrong person.

From the roads to city councils to the courts of justice, institutions must do everything possible to prioritize the safety of women, or risk completely losing their trust.

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Democrats are demanding an investigation into whether Attorney General Jeff Sessions committed perjury. GETTY IMAGES

Sessions steps aside from probe

POLITICS

Evasion adds to suspicions around Trump and Russia

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself Thursday from federal investigations related to the 2016 election campaign, including a probe of interactions between the Russian government and associates of President Donald Trump.

Sessions' decision came the afternoon after the Washington Post revealed he had misled the Senate when he said under oath that he "did not have any communications with the Russians" during the campaign. In fact, he had at least two meetings with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

Sessions insisted at a Thursday news conference that his answer had been "honest." But he conceded under questioning that he should have disclosed he had met "one Russian official a couple of times."

The uproar surrounding Sessions, who was a prominent Trump campaign adviser, is only the latest development in a sprawling Russia controversy that has alternated between a simmer and a blaze throughout Trump's entire six-week-old presidency. Sessions is at least the second top Trump appointee to become engulfed by criticism over his inaccurate claims related to contact with Kislyak.

The other one, former national security adviser Michael Flynn, resigned in February.

Sessions brushed aside top Democrats' Thursday calls for his own resignation, and Trump said he thought Sessions had "probably" been truthful in his testimony. Sessions said he was recusing himself only because he had been involved in Trump's campaign, implying his January remarks were not a factor.

Regardless, the revelation that he deceived Congress adds more fuel to unproven suspicions that Trump is attempting to conceal something about his relationship with Russia and President Vladimir Putin. And the withdrawal of the nation's top law enforcement official from a major investigation deepens the appearance of disarray from an administration that was briefly buoyed by Trump's well-received speech to Congress on Tuesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOINT PROBE

- Multiple U.S. intelligence agencies are conducting a joint probe into the alleged Russian interference in the election, which they believe involved the hacking of the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman.
- One of the things they are studying, according to the New York Times, is communication between Trump associates and the Russian government.

WEBSITES

Comments get a skill test filter

Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

Canadians are quite familiar with skill-testing contest questions. Perhaps skill-testing comment questions will be next.

In a bid to keep a lid on the generally ill-informed fury that comments sections quickly become, a Norwegian website will ask those hoping to weigh in one simple question: Did you actually read the article?

Last month, NRKbeta — a tech site operated by Norway's public broadcaster — introduced a new feature that quizzes readers on details of the article before they're allowed to toss in their two cents.

"We thought we should do our part to try and make sure that people are on the same page before they comment," NRKbeta reporter Stale Grut told Nieman Lab.

Many news websites, including Metro, have jettisoned comment sections after they were largely taken over by hostile and reactionary ranting.

metro SCIENCE

Your essential daily news

Smog fees Lawyers suing Beijing over the city's smog are demanding compensation for the likes of masks and doctor's visits.

DECODED by Andrés Plana and Sarah-Joyce Battersby

WHAT TO EXPECT IN TECH

It's been almost 6,000 years since the wheel was invented, but science has not been resting on its innovation laurels. A mere 300 years later, wheels were first used for transportation. And now in the 21st century it looks like invention is starting to hit its stride, with new discoveries and applications cropping up regularly. **Here's a look at tech from the not-too-distant future**

1 Graphene

Touted as the first 2D material, graphene is very thin (one million times thinner than human hair) and very strong (200 times stronger than steel). Since researchers at the University of Manchester published their discovery of the material in 2004, more than 8,000 patents have been registered, with Samsung holding the most. The substance can be used in batteries, bendable computer screens, and water purification.

Researchers in Beijing fed graphene to silkworms, who turned it into super-strong, electricity conducting silk.

2 Nuclear waste diamond batteries

As 2016 came to a close, British researchers announced they could turn nuclear waste into diamonds that could in turn be used as long-lasting batteries. The power-emitting gems don't have enough juice to charge a smartphone, but they can last for thousands of years. So it's a trade off.

3 Pollinating Drones

Hoping to ease the burden on dwindling bee populations, Japanese scientists announced last month they had created insect-sized drones to pollinate plants. Enthusiasm for robot bees depends on how many episodes of dystopian TV series Black Mirror you've seen.

4 Hover-bike

For all your Star Wars-style transportation needs, a U.K. company is working to develop a manned helicopter bike. The project is still in the prototyping and fundraising phase, but it did attract interest from the U.S. Department of Defense in 2015.

5 Cooling Plastic

In an attempt to beat the heat, engineers have developed a cheap plastic film that blocks heat from the sun while also cooling anything it touches by up to 10 C. The details were published in the journal Science by researchers in Wyoming and Colorado, who say the method could be mass-produced and used to cool buildings.

6 Hyperloop

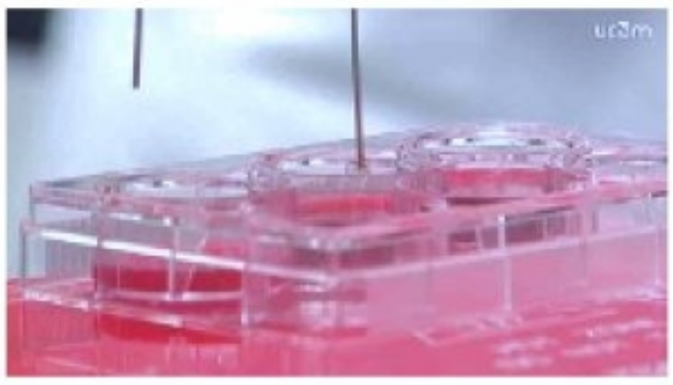
It doesn't exist yet, but if it did it could travel between Toronto and Montreal in 30 minutes. Students gathered for a SpaceX-sponsored contest in January to help make the dream a reality.

7 Translating headphones

These translation earbuds are set to start shipping in May. For now they only translate the romance languages and require all speakers to wear them, but in the future they could listen and translate all sounds around you.

8 Human skin printer

Scientists have developed a prototype for a machine that prints out sheets of human skin that could be used for transplants or cosmetic and pharmaceutical testing.



FINDINGS
Your week in science

Sweet pee Alberta researchers have a theory: test for urine in pools by looking at sugar levels, since artificial sweeteners stay intact in pee. Using the method, they found 75 litres of urine in a pool one-third of Olympic size. That equals about 37 big bottles of Coke.

Quebec cradle of life A team of researchers believe they have uncovered the oldest known signs of life on the planet in a spot on the shores of Hudson Bay in northern Quebec. The fossils contain traces of bacteria from 3.77 billion years ago.

SOUND SMART

DEFINITION
Meatspace the physical world, as opposed to cyberspace or a virtual environment.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Deborah has been using her phone so much to deal with social life that I think she forgot about the **meatspace.**

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A sweeter side of Wolverine

IN FOCUS

Hugh Jackman brings sharp humanity in mutant finale

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Temperament wise, Hugh Jackman doesn't have much in common with his most famous screen role.

As the embodiment of Wolverine — a mutant blessed with miraculous healing powers but cursed with a bad hairstyle and existential angst — Jackman is the face of the character. But off screen he is as gracious as his cigar-smoking X-Men alter ego is testy.

His Prisoners co-star Terence Howard told me Jackman was, "a sweet man," while director Josh Rothstein said the actor "leads with smiles and warmth."

When he isn't playing Wolverine he devotes his time to charitable causes like World Vision and Laughing Man, a coffee company he established that sells fair trade coffee and tea, products farmed using ecologically friendly methods and sold for the benefit of the farmer and consumer.

This weekend he stars in Logan, the third solo Wolverine film. In the new movie the X-Men antihero makes tracks to the Mexican border to set up a hide-out for ailing mentor Professor X, played by Patrick Stewart.

This installment marks the ninth time Jackman has slipped on the adamantium claws, and will be his swansong in the role.

Having played the character for almost 18 years Jackman owns the part, bringing real humanity to the mutant in an powerful and accomplished performance. But the actor says he wasn't always as self-assured.

"When I started acting I was the dunce of the class," he reveals. Success in school, he says, came because of his work ethic, a trait he picked up from his father.

"He never took one day off in his life," he says. "He had five kids he was bringing up on his own. If anyone deserved a day off it was my old man, but he never did. I learned that from him.

"I've always had a fear of fear. It's weird to think back now but drama school is a pressure cooker situation. People get kicked out of drama school. You are constantly being judged on how you are doing; are you progressing, are you not?

"Almost everyday you had to get up and do a monologue. Sing a song. Do it in front of everybody. I noticed I was always first. I never wanted to sit there waiting. I'm not saying that out of courage. It was too uncomfortable to sit, stewing. I don't think I've told anyone else that."

Later, it was the fear of unemployment pushed him to expand his talents.

"When I came out of drama school I was like, 'I'm going to do anything I can just to keep working.' In drama school you do Shakespeare to movement to circus skills to singing all in one morning. I know a lot of people hated it but I revelled in it. I loved it."

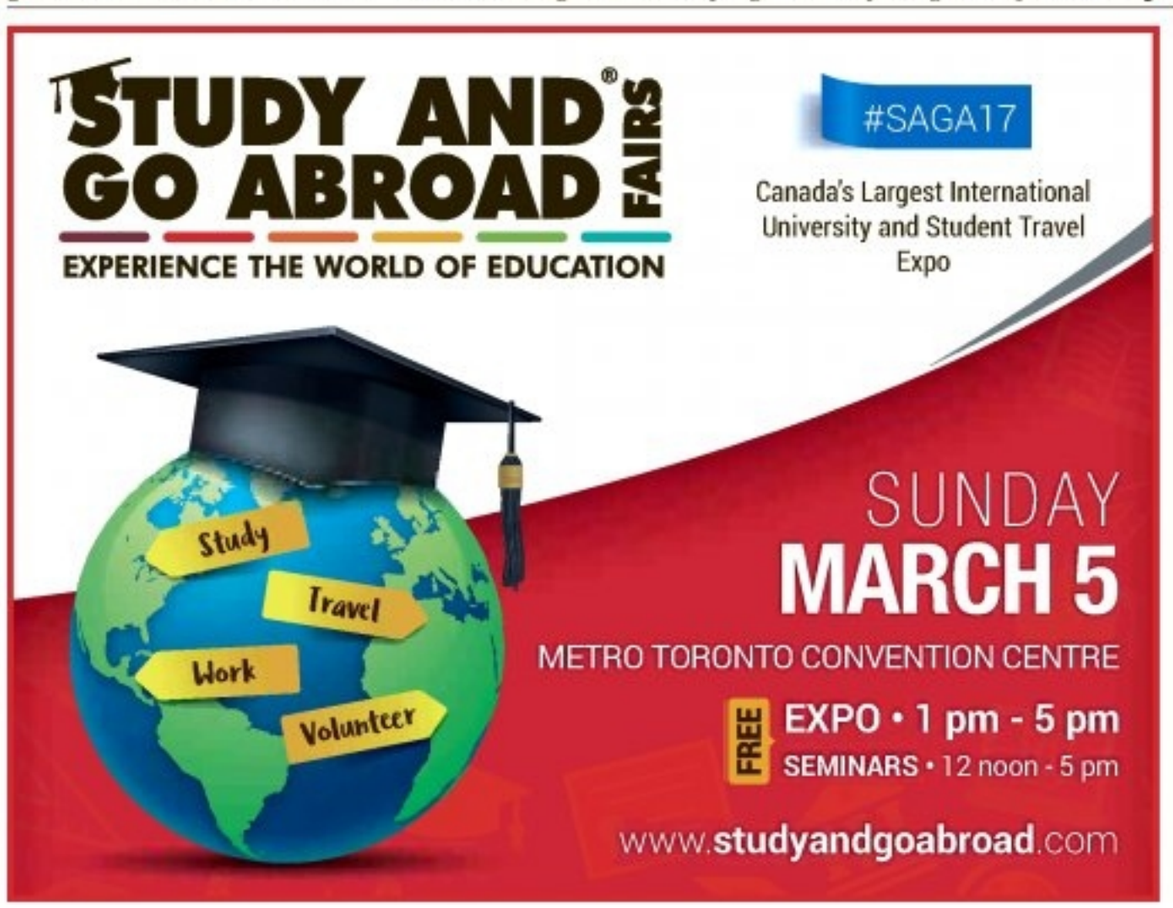
Seems hard work and confidence is the X-factor that made Jackman the most famous — and friendly — of all the X-Men.

Dafne Keen as Laura and Patrick Stewart's Professor X are Hugh Jackman's sidekicks in Wolverine swansong Logan. CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Before I Fall	★★★
Ballerina	★
Table 19	★★★
The Shack	★
Bitter Harvest	★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT



A story set in Ukraine's famine

PERIOD DRAMA

Bitter Harvest delves into a long-hidden genocide

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Max Irons stars in Bitter Harvest, a film about two separated lovers set during the 1930s famine in Soviet Ukraine that caused the deaths of millions of people. CONTRIBUTED

Genocide may be largely associated with the terrible atrocities that took place in Armenia, Rwanda and during the Holocaust of the Second World War. But there is another historical horror that actor Max Irons is hoping to enlighten moviegoers about.

"It was new to me and it's new to most people from what I can tell," said the young star about Holodomor, the man-made Ukrainian famine at the centre of his latest film, Bitter Harvest.

"There was a concerted effort made by (Joseph) Stalin and the Soviet Union to keep what happened in Ukraine under wraps and as a result few people knew about it up until about '91. Even today, only about 24 countries acknowledge it for what it was — which is a state-sponsored genocide."

While the film (set in the 1930s) is an excavation of the neglected disaster that killed millions of people, the period drama about two separated lovers battling to reunite during the crisis also takes on a decidedly contemporary flavour in light of today's tension over Russian President Vladimir Putin's annexation of the Crimea region.

"I think the DNA of the country led to what happened in the '30s and again is leading to what's happened with Crimea and Ukraine today," said Irons. "It's a country that's divided politically, ethnically, linguistically, economically and also it's struggling for its sense of national identity (and) even now Putin refuses to acknowledge the Ukraine as its own sovereign state. So it's a country in the wrong place."

While candid on the complex issue, Irons is also quick to distance any direct connection between Bitter Harvest and the region's current politics. After all, he insists he's just an actor and "if it's a great story, it's a great story," regardless of the politics involved.

It would seem such insight might have been imparted from his parents — two people who know a thing or two about filmmaking. But the son of Oscar-winner Jeremy Irons and legendary Irish stage actress Sinéad Cusack insists that he's not necessarily relied on their fame for career success — or even their advice.

"They understand that everyone has to make their own way and make their own mistakes and have their own victories," said Irons.

"They're quite nice like that — they just let me get on with it."

BEHIND THE SCENES

Fiction vs. non-fiction
"Films can be so many things from straight-up entertainment to slightly solemn and worthy things that teach people a thing or two," said Max Irons. "But I was attracted to this story because so few people know about it."

The Canadian connection
Bitter Harvest was produced by Toronto-based financier Ian Ihnatowycz, whose own family fled Ukraine in the 1940s.

"(He) feels, like many Ukrainians do, that this story needs to be told," said Irons.

"He's fortunate enough to have enough access to the kind of capital required to make a film like this and tell the story and he's gone ahead and done it, which is pretty great."

An actor by choice
"I never believed that thing about it (being) in your genes," said Irons about his famous filmmaking family. "It was only when I did it for the first time (and) it was just more engaging and more fun and exercising the parts of my brain that I wanted to exercise."

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Teen angst, God and wedding woe

A little bit more about five movies that are being released this weekend

1 Before I Fall (Starring Zoey Deutch, Halston Sage, Cynthy Wu, Elena Kampouris, Logan Miller, Kian Lawley; Directed by Ry Russo-Young; 98 minutes; 14A)
Before I Fall might have been dismissed — and even forgiven — for falling into a Groundhog Day rut, since it deliberately goes in for a similar story of redemptive magic.
Who expects much from movies such as these, especially one targeted at teens? Yet this one avoids tedium and exceeds expectations.
It's "Cupid Day" at the Pacific Northwest high school of popular student Sam Kingston (Vampire Academy's Zoey Deutch). Sam plans to celebrate this pre-Valentine's Day occasion by partying with her fun-loving gal pals while also losing her virginity with her erstwhile boyfriend Rob (Kian Lawley). The day will actually turn out to be even more complicated than

Sam planned. Something happens — she's not sure what exactly — that has her reliving Cupid Day over and over, but also with the power to make small and possibly significant changes.
A fine actress, Deutch makes a compelling and empathetic protagonist, even as the story veers closer into the supernatural.

2 The Shack (Starring Sam Worthington, Octavia Spencer; Directed by Stuart Hazeldine; 132 minutes; PG)
Devout Christians will flock to The Shack. For the rest of us, it may require an act of faith.
"Who wouldn't be skeptical when a man claims to have spent an entire weekend with God in a shack?" goes the prologue. Who indeed?
Sam Worthington plays Mack, visited by a "great sadness" when his daughter is abducted during a camping trip and murdered at a tumbledown house in the woods.

A mysterious letter draws Mack back to the place where his faith has been so sorely tested where he meets God (played by Octavia Spencer), Jesus and a woman named Sarayu (the holy ghost possibly?).
The story deals with a fundamental question: how to forgive a crime of such abominable proportions?
But at more than two hours, the film is too long and the storyline too faith-infused to be truly redemptive for a broader audience.

3 Saigon Bodyguards (Starring Kim Ly, Thai Hoa; Co-written and directed by Ken Ochiai; 108 minutes.)
Like good Vietnamese cuisine, Saigon Bodyguards is pho fresh and hot.
Director Ken Ochiai delivers a fond homage to the Western buddy action/comedy, and while it's by no means perfect, it's still madcap fun with a cheeky sense of humour right down to such zingers as "What the phuc!"
Kim Ly and Thai Hoa play two bodyguards charged with protecting Henry, returning home from Harvard to take up the mantle of his recently deceased milk tycoon father.
When Henry is kidnapped by a villainous brother and sister, the partners find a doppelganger named Phuc to act as substitute until an all-important board meeting. There's a hip Asian fusion soundtrack and Ochiai delivers some decent fight-scene action without ever taking things too seriously.

4 Table 19 (Starring Anna Kendrick, Lisa Kudrow, Craig Robertson, June Squibb; Directed by Jeffrey Blitz; 87 minutes; 14A)
Eloise (Anna Kendrick) shows up at a friend's wedding for reasons to be unwrapped later. The recently dumped girlfriend of the bride's brother, she lands with the "randoms" near the back of the room.
Her tablemates include a squabbling couple, the bride's nanny, an awkward teenager and an ex-con relation (Stephen Merchant, a delight). If director Jeffrey Blitz (Rocket Science) and story creators Jay and Mark Duplass had worked harder to heat up this lukewarm buffet dish of a film, Table 19 might have found a surer berth in the frothy wedding genre.
Instead, it feels a bit like an unfocused drunk-uncle speech; it's got a couple of good jokes but mostly you just wait it out to get to the inevitable sweet table at the end of the night.

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MOVIE LISTINGS

DOWNTOWN

Scotiabank Theatre, 259 Richmond
Fifty Shades Darker Fri 12:40-3:35-6:40-9:35 Sat 10:50-1:35-4:25-7:20-10:25 Sun-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:40-9:35 **The Great Wall** Fri 4:50 Sat 5:40 Sun-Wed 4:50 Thu 3; 3D Fri 2:10-7:30-10 Sat 12:15-2:55-8:20-11 Sun-Wed 2:10-7:30-10 Thu 12:20-7:30-10 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40 Sat 11:20-2:20-5:15-8:15-11:05 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40 **Kong: Skull Island 3D** Thu 7-10:15 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50 Sat 10:30-1:10-3:50-6:40-9:20 Sun-Tue 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50 Wed 1-3:40-9:50 Thu 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50 3D Fri 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sat 11:05-1:40-4:20-7:10-9:50 Sun 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 12-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 **Logan** Fri 11:30-12-2:15-2:45-3:15-5:30-6-6:30-8:45-9:15-9:45 Sat 11-11:30-12-2:15-2:45-3:15-5:30-6-6:30-8:45-9:15-9:45 Sun 11:30-12-2:15-2:45-3:15-5:30-6-6:30-8:45-9:15-9:45 Mon 1-2:15-2:45-4:15-5:30-6-6:30-7:30-8:45-9:15-10:45 Tue-Thu 12-2:15-2:45-3:15-5:30-6-6:30-8:45-9:15-9:45 Fri 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Sat 10:20-1:25-4:40-7:55-11:05 Sun 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Mon 12-3:15-9:45 Tue-Thu 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 IMAX 2D Fri-Wed 12:30-3:45-7:10:15 Thu 12:30-3:45 **Manchester by the Sea** Fri-Sun 12:05-3:10-6:20-9:25 Mon 12:05-3:10-9:40 Tue-Wed 12:05-3:10-6:20-9:25 Thu 3:10-6:20-9:25 **Passengers** Fri 11:30-2:10-7:30 Sat 11:40-2:25-8 Sun 11:30-2:10-7:30 Mon 2:10 Tue-Wed 2:10-7:30 Thu 2:10 **Resident Evil: The Final Chapter** Fri 4:50 Sat 5:10 Sun-Thu 4:50 **Resident Evil: The Final Chapter** 3D Fri 10:10 Sat 10:40 Sun-Thu 10:10 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri 11:40-6:50 Sat 10:40-1:40-7:45 Sun 11:40-6:50 Mon-Thu 12-6:50; 3D Fri 3-10 Sat 4:45-10:50 Sun-Thu 3-10 **Split** Fri 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 10:30-1:20-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon 12:50-3:50-7:20-10:20 Tue-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Market Square, 80 Front St.
Ballerina Fri-Thu 12:50-3-5:05-7:10-9:20 **Before I Fall** Fri-Thu 1-3:30-6:30-9:05 **Get Out** Fri-Sat 12:55-3:25-6:40-9:35 Sun-Mon 3:25-9:35 Tue 12:55-3:25-6:40-9:35 Wed 3:25-9:35 Thu 12:55-3:25-6:40-9:35 Sun-Mon 12:55-6:40 Wed 12:55-6:40 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri-Sat 1:05-3:50-6:50-9:30 Sun 1:05-3:50-9:30 Mon-Wed 1:05-3:50-6:50-9:30 Thu 1:05-3:50 **Kong: Skull Island** Thu 7-9:55 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri-Sat 1:20-3:45-6:45-9:40 Sun 1:20-3:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:20-3:45-6:45-9:40 **Logan** Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:55-9:50

Varsity, 55 Bloor St. W.
20th Century Women Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 **Fifty Shades Darker** Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 **Hidden Figures** Fri 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15 Sat-Sun 10:30-1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15 **I Am Not Your Negro** Fri 12:50-3:50-6:30-9:35 Sat-Sun 10:35-12:50-3:50-6:30-9:35 Mon-Tue 12:50-3:50-6:30-9:35 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:25-9:35 **La La Land** Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:25-9:30 **Lion** Fri-Sun 12:25-3:25-6:40-9:55 Mon 12:25-3:25-9:55 Tue 12:25-3:25-6:40-9:55 Wed-Thu 12:25-3:25-9:55 **Logan** Fri 12:15-3:45-7:15-10:30 Sat-Sun 10:30-12:15-3:45-7:15-10:30 Mon 12:50-4:15-7:30-10:30 Tue-Thu 12:15-3:45-7:15-10:30 Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10 **A Man Called Ove** Fri 1:15-4-6:55-9:40 Sat-Sun 10:45-1:25-4-6:55-9:40 Mon 1:15-4-6:45-10:30 Tue-Thu 1:15-4-6:55-9:40 **Manchester by the Sea** Fri-Thu 12-3-6-9 **Moonlight** Fri 1:05-4:05-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 10:40-1:05-4:05-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:05-4:05-7-9:50 **The Salesman** Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:10

Yonge & Dundas, 10 Dundas St.
Arrival Fri 1:25-4:20-7:20-10:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:05 **Away From Everywhere** Sat 7:30 **Ballerina** Fri 2:45-5:10-7:35-9:50 Sat 12:30-2:45-5:10-7:30-9:50 Sun 12:30-2:45-5:10-7:35-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:30-3:55-7:35-9:50 **Before I Fall** Fri 2:10-4:35-7:05-9:35 Sat 11:45-2:10-4:35-7:05-9:35 Sun-Thu 2:10-4:35-7:05-9:35 **Bitter Harvest** Fri 2:35-5:25-8-10:40 Sat 11:45-2:20-5:20-7:55-10:35 Sun 12-2:35-5:25-8-10:40 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:25-8-10:40 **A Dog's Purpose** Fri 3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Sat 11:15-1:50-4:30-7:20-9:55 Sun 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:35-10:10 **Exhibition on Screen: I, Claude Monet** Mon 2 **A Few Good Men** Sun 12:55 **Fifty Shades Darker** Fri-Sun 11:45-2:40-6-9:15 Mon 12-2:50-6-11 Tue 11:45-2:40-6-9:15 Wed 12-2:50-6-11 Thu 12-3 **Fist Fight** Fri 2:40-5:05-7:40-10:10 Sat 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sun 12:10-2:40-5:05-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:10 **Get Out** Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-6:30-11:15 Mon 12:30-3:50-6:30-9 Tue 12:30-3:50-6:30-11:15 Wed 12:30-3:50-6:30-9 Thu 12:30-3:50-6-9 Fri 3-5:50-8:20-11 Sat-Sun 12:20-3-5:50-8:20-11 Mon-Thu 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:20 **The Girl With All the Gifts** Sat 10:45 Sun 8:15 Mon 9:15 **Hidden Figures** Fri 1:30-4:25-7:30-10:25 Sat-Sun 1-3:55-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 7-9:55 **Incarnate** Fri 9:15 Sun 10:45 Mon 7 Tue 9:15 Wed 9:30 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:30-11 Mon 1:20-4:10-7:20-10:45 Tue 1:20-4:10-7:30-11 Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:20-10:45 **Kong: Skull Island** 3D Thu 7-10 **La La Land** Fri-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:30-10:30 **Lion** Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30 **Logan** Fri-Sun 12-1-3:30-4:30-7-8-9:45-10:30 Mon 12-1-3:30-4:30-7-7:45-9:30-10:30 Tue 12-1-3:30-4:30-7-8-9:45-10:30 Wed 12-1-3:30-4:30-7-7:45-9:30-10:30 Thu 12-1-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:45-10-11 Fri 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Sat 10:35-1:40-4:50-8-11:15 Sun-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 IMAX 2D Fri 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Sat 10:20-1:25-4:35-7:45-10:55 Sun-Tue 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Wed 12:30-3:45-10:45 Thu 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 **Moana** Fri 12:30 Sat-Sun 12:25 **National Theatre Live: Amadeus -- Encore** Sat 12:30 Sun 4:15 **National Theatre Live: Hedda Gabler** Thu 7 **Rangoon** Fri-Sun 3:35-6:55-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-10:15 **Revolution: New Art for a New World** Wed 7:30 **Saigon Bodyguards** Fri 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sat 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sun 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:55-7:50-10:30 **Sailor Moon R: The Movie** Fri 2-4:30-7 Sat 4:45 Mon 4:30 Tue 2-4:30-7 Wed-Thu 2-4:30 **The Shack** Fri 1:35-4:40-7:40-10:45 Sat 10:45-1:35-4:40-7:40-10:45 Sun 1:35-4:40-7:40-10:45 Mon-Wed 1:35-4:40-7:15-10:20 Thu 4:40-7:15-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1:30 **Table 19** Fri-Sun 1:40-4-6:20-8:35-10:50 Mon-Wed 1:40-4:10-8:05-10:20 Thu 4:10-8:05-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1:30 **A United Kingdom** Fri 2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Mon-Thu 2:45-5:25-8:05-10:45

MIDTOWN

Yonge-Eglinton Centre, 2300 Yonge St.
Ballerina Fri 12:35-2:45-5-7:20 Sat 11:30-2-4:30-7 Sun 12:20-2:45-5-7:20 Mon-Tue 12:35-2:45-5-7:20 Wed 2:45-5-7:20 Thu 12:35-2:45-5-7:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 12:35 **Before I Fall** Fri 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:50-10:25 Sat 12:20-5:20-8-10:25 Sun-Tue 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:50-10:25 Wed 12:30-2:50-5:10-7-10:25 Thu 1:20-4:10-7-10:25 **Fist Fight** Fri 9:40 Sat 9:30 Sun-Thu 9:40 **Get Out** Fri 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:40 Sat 12-2:35-5:10-7:55-10:40 Sun-Tue 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:40 Wed-Thu 12:35-3-5:25-7:55-10:25 **Hidden Figures** Fri 12:40-3:50-7-10 Sat 3:10-6:30-9:40 Sun 12-3:15-6:30-9:35 Mon-Tue 12:40-3:50-7-10 Wed-Thu 12:40-3:50-10 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:40-10:30 **Kong: Skull Island 3D** Thu 7-10:15 **La La Land** Fri-Sat 12:50-4-7:10-10:10 Sun 12:10-3:25-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:10 Fri 3:30-6:30-9:40 Sat 12-3:15-6:30-9:40 Sun 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Mon 3:30-6:30-9:30 Tue 3:30-6:30-9:45 Wed 3:45-6:50-9:50 Thu 3:30 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri 12:30-3-5:30 Sat 11:20-2:20-5:05 Sun-Tue 12:30-3-5:30 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:10; 3D Fri 8-10:35 Sat 7:45-10:20 Sun-Tue 8-10:35 Wed-Thu 6:55-9:35 **Logan** Fri 12:30-3:35-6:50-10:05 Sat 12:20-3:35-6:50-10:05 Sun-Tue 12:30-3:35-6:50-10:05 Wed 3:35-6:50-10:05 Thu 12:30-3:35-6:50-10:05 Fri 3:45-4:10-7-7:30-10:30-11 Sat-Sun 12:15-12:45-3:45-4:15-7-7:30-10:30-11 Mon 3:45-4:10-7-7:30-10:15-10:45 Tue 3:45-4:10-7-7:30-10:30-11 Wed 3:20-4:10-6:30-7:20-9:40-10:30 Thu 3:50-4:10-6:30-7:30-9:40-10:40 Fri-Tue 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 1-4:15-7:25-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, Wed 12:30 **National Theatre Live: Amadeus Encore** Sat 12:30 **National Theatre Live: Hedda Gabler** Thu 7 **Nine Lives** Sat 11 **Revolution: New Art for a New World** Wed 7:30

NORTH YORK

Empress Walk, 5095 Yonge St.
Fabricated City Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:55-10:05 Mon 3:50-6:55-9:55 Tue 3:50-6:55-10:05 Wed 3:50-6:55-10 Thu 3:50 **Fifty Shades Darker** Fri-Sun 3:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:30-9:40 **The Great Wall** Fri-Thu 4:40; 3D Fri-Sun 1:30-7:45-10:25 Mon-Wed 7:45-10:25 Thu 7:30-10:10 **Hidden Figures** Fri-Sun 12:15-6:25 Mon-Tue 6:25 Wed 6:35 Thu 6:30 **I Am Not Your Negro** Fri 1:10-4:10-7:05-9:30 Sat 12:45-4:40-7:05-9:30 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:05-9:30 Mon 4:20-7:25-10:10 Tue 4:20-7:05-9:30 Wed 4:20-7:05-9:35 Thu 4:20-7:40-10:10 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri-Sun 1-4:20-7:25-10:25 Mon 4:05-7:05-10:05 Tue 4:05-7:25-10:25 Wed-Thu 4:05-7:15-10:15 **Kong: Skull Island** — IMAX Thu 7:20-10:15 **La La Land** Fri 12:30-3:35-6:35-9:45 Sat 3:30-6:35-9:45 Sun 12:30-3:35-6:35-9:45 Mon 3:40 Tue 3:40-6:35-9:45 Wed 3:40-9:45 Thu 3:40-9:20 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri-Thu 4:30; 3D Fri-Sun 1:20-7:35-10:15 Mon-Wed 7:35-10:15 Thu 7:10-9:50 **Logan** Fri-Sun 12:15-3:30-6:45-10 Mon-Wed 3:30-6:45-10 Thu 3:30-6:50-10:05; IMAX 2D Fri-Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Mon-Tue 4-7:15-10:30 Wed 3:50-7:05-10:20 Thu 4 **National Theatre Live: Amadeus -- Encore** Sat 12:30 **National Theatre Live: Hedda Gabler** Thu 7 **Revolution: New Art for a New World** Wed 7:30 **Table 19** Fri-Sun 12:40-3:05-5:35-7:55-10:20 Mon 4-6:35-9:30 Tue-Wed 4-7:55-10:20 Thu 4:40-6:40-9:30

SilverCity Yorkdale 6, 3401 Dufferin St.
Ballerina Fri-Sun 12:15-2:35-5-7:20 Mon-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30 **Before I Fall** Fri 12:15-2:45-5:15-8-10:30 Sat 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:40 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:40-10:30 **Fifty Shades Darker** Fri 12:45-4-7:10 Sat 12:30-3:40-6:40 Sun 12:45-4-7:10 Mon-Wed 12:40-3:30-6:40 Thu 12:40-3:30 **Fist Fight** Fri-Sun 9:55 Mon-Thu 9:50 **Get Out** Fri 2:15-4:50-7:50-10:25 Sat 11:45-2:20-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sun 2:15-4:50-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:20-10 **The Great Wall** Fri-Thu 3:50 3D Fri-Sun 1:15-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:10-6:50-9:30 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri 1:30-4:40-7:40-10:35 Sat 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:40 Sun 1:30-4:40-7:40-10:35 Mon-Thu 12:50-4-7:20-10:20 **Kong: Skull Island** 3D Thu 7-10:15 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri 4:30-10 Sat 4:25-9:45 Sun 4:30-10 Mon 4:30-9:40 Tue 4:30-9:50 Wed-Thu 4:30-9:40 3D Fri 1:45-7:15 Sat 11:15-1:45-7 Sun 1:45-7:15 Mon-Thu 1:40-7:10 **Logan** Fri 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Sat 12-3:15-6:30-9:50 Sun 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 2:30-5:45-9:10 Fri 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Sat 10:20-1:25-4:35-7:45-10:55 Sun 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Mon 1-4:10-7:30-10:45 Tue 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 1-4:10-7:30-10:45 Fri 12:30-3:45-7:10:15 Sat 12:45-4-7:10-10:20 Sun 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Mon-Wed 12:30-3:40-7-10:15 Thu 7-10:15 Thu 12:25-3:40 **Nine Lives** Sat 11 **Split** Fri 10:10 Sat 9:40 Sun 10:10 Mon-Wed 9:40

Silvercity Fairview, 1800 Sheppard Ave.
Ballerina Fri 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30 Sat 11-12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30 Sun 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30 Mon 12:45-3-5:20-8:10 Tue 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30 Wed-Thu 12:45-3-5:20-8:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 12:45 **Before I Fall** Fri-Sat 12:30-3-5:30-7:55-10:35 Sun 2-4:55-7:55-10:35 Mon 2:55-5:25-7:55-10:30 Tue 12:30-3-5:30-7:55-10:35 Wed-Thu 2:55-5:25-7:55-10:30 **A Few Good Men** Sun 12:55 Fist Fight Fri-Sun 9:50 Mon 10:30 Tue 9:50 Wed-Thu 10:30 **Get Out** Fri 12:20-2:50-5:25-8-10:45 Sat 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:45 Sun 12:20-2:50-5:25-8-10:45 Mon 12:55-1:50-4:25-7-9:45 Tue 12:20-2:50-5:25-8-10:45 Wed 1:50-4:25-7-9:45 Thu 12:55-1:25-4-7:45-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 12:55 **The Great Wall** Fri-Thu 4:25 3D Fri-Thu 1:50-7-9:40 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri-Sat 2-5-8:15-11 Sun 5-8:15-11 Mon 1:30-4:30-7:45-10:30 Tue 2-5-8:15-11 Wed 1:30-4:30-7:45-10:30 Thu 1:30-4:30 **Kong: Skull Island** 3D Thu 7:30-10:20 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri 12:15-2:45-5:20 Sat 11:15-12:15-2:45-5:20 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:20 Mon 1:55-4:30 Tue 12:15-2:45-5:20 Wed-Thu 1:55-4:30 3D Fri-Sun 8:20-10:50 Mon 7:25-10 Tue 8:20-10:50 Wed-Thu 7:25-10 **Logan** Fri-Sun 12:15-1:15-3:30-4:30-6:45-7:45-10-11 Mon 2:15-3:30-5:45-6:45-9-10 Tue 12:15-1:15-3:30-4:30-6:45-7:45-10-11 Wed-Thu 2:15-3:30-5:45-6:45-9-10 Fri-Mon 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Tue 12:45-4-7:15-10:35 Wed-Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 **Nine Lives** Sat 11

You could **WIN** one of five 5 double VIP passes for the March 12th *The Joshua Tree 30th Anniversary* Event, with Daniel Lanois, Acrobat (U2 Tribute Band), a screening of 'Classic Albums: The Joshua Tree,' a panel discussion, pop-up store and more.

And one of the lucky 5 will WIN a pair of tickets to the **SOLD OUT** Toronto show on June 23rd. The winner will be drawn live at the event.

To enter, go to: Wonderlist.ca

MUSICVAULTZ

No purchase necessary. Skill testing question required. Contest open to residents of Ontario, 18 years of age or older. Six (6) prizes to be won. Approximate retail value of each prize is $350CAD. The Contest Period begins at 2:00 PM ET on February 17, 2017 and ends at 9am ET on March 3, 2017. For complete contest rules, visit http://wonderlist.ca.

THIS WEEKEND

DIVE INTO INDIAN FOOD WITH YOUR HANDS

Follow Aparita Bhandari as she explores how to eat the diverse foods available in Toronto. This week: Indian food. Read it Sunday in Toronto Star Touch.

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Washington D.C.'s cherry blossoms expected to peak in two weeks

Lessons from a family gap year

ADVENTURE

Parents stick to epic plan, even when the kids are fussy

Riding camels in northern Morocco, from left: husband Scott Morson, kids Matthew and Alexandra, and Yvette Duffy. Right: Lisa Kisch and husband Quillan Nagel with daughters Audrey, centre, and Lily, right, at the San Buenaventura Church in Homun, Mexico. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY YVETTE DUFFY/LISA KISCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yvette Duffy's adventure of a lifetime began with years of meticulous planning.

The goal was to visit 16 countries in 10 months — an around-the-world ramble in which she and her husband would introduce their 10- and 13-year-old kids to an array of cultures, traditions and invaluable life lessons.

A family gap year, or even a months-long jaunt, can seem like an impossible dream for average Canadians. But many figure out a way, despite significant hurdles: finances, schooling, work obligations and of course, the kids' willingness to go along.

Before their trip, Duffy and her husband curtailed spending and drafted a list of countries to visit. Duffy deferred 20 per cent of her teacher's salary for four years so they could afford a year-long leave. They crunched the numbers again and again and tweaked their list of dream destinations.

As the trip approached, they sold their car and arranged a home swap for one of the costliest legs of the trip — three weeks in the south of France.

School was also an issue, since their son would essentially skip Grade 5 while their daughter would ditch Grade 8. So Duffy downloaded outlines of their academic requirements and vowed to homeschool on the road.

It was a risky plan, Duffy acknowledges, but the payoff was huge. Several months after returning to Toronto, she points to incredible memories, a tighter family bond, and confident kids.

"Their self-esteem definitely increased, their sense of independence increased, their knowledge of the world definitely grew," Duffy says of the impact of visiting locales including Iceland, northern Africa, the Himalayas, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

"They can now speak about places and issues in the world with more confidence and actually recognize the challenges that are facing the world around poverty, human rights, climate change."

Toronto mom Lisa Kisch says she indulged a long-held dream to see the world after her mother suddenly fell ill with terminal cancer.

Eager to distract herself from grief, Kisch dove into a plan to take her husband and two daughters on a seven-month jaunt to Mexico, the Virgin Islands, England, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Israel, Italy and Croatia.

Reached at their first stop in Merida, Mexico earlier this year, Kisch rattled off a list of tips and tricks that could actually keep her finances in the black, thanks to a healthy passive income.

She's renting out their Toronto home and also found tenants for their cottage. Her online business as a network marketer for a beauty products company also promises a continued source of income.

Living and accommodation expenses should drop — depending on where they travel — and more savings come from reduced home and car insurance. Plus they won't be on the hook for the regular stream of birthday party gifts for her daughters' friends, she jokes.

Kisch used a broker to score seven months of health insurance for the whole family for $1,000 and will curb travel costs by hitting Europe in May before high-season starts. More affordable destinations like Portugal will alternate with pricier stops, like London.

While the budget fell into place, she hadn't anticipated how hard the move would be on her eight- and 10-year-old girls, who were sad to leave friends. Several days into the trip they were still crying and she admits to being plagued by mom-guilt.

"It did surprise me that after five or six days they were still wishing they were home," says Kisch."And then I realized: You know what? You had a vision for this trip from the beginning for a reason and just keep that vision even while your kids are going through those ups and downs because ultimately that's what they're really going to learn from."

Lingering in one place allows for some semblance of a normal routine, she adds. Their mornings generally consist of schoolwork, an excursion and then lunch.

Sightseeing is a leisurely jaunt, not the frenzied rush that can mar shorter trips, she says.

"If you have to see absolutely everything, they're going to be miserable, you're going to be miserable, they're not going to remember it anyway.

"The things they remember are: 'Remember when we walked to that place and we saw that shop and there was the lady with the flowers?'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOW THEY DID IT

The straight logistics, or how to order pizza in any language

Living abroad temporarily can seem out of reach for families. Here's a look at how two Canadian families managed:

Family: Yvette Duffy, her husband and two kids, ages 10 and 13
Home: Toronto
Travel dates: Sept. 7, 2015 to mid-June 2016
Where they went: Iceland, France, Spain, Morocco, Egypt, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Nepal, Turkey, Greece, Italy, England and Scotland.
How they handled school: Online sites were key for math — mostly IXL and the Khan Academy, but also the University of Waterloo's Problem of the Week. Duffy downloaded ebooks and audio books related to each locale. Kids blogged about things like blood cells and oxygen levels in Nepal, and "impossible loads" in Vietnam where motorcycles routinely carry massive cargo. Upon return, the kids went to a French summer camp before resuming studies at their French immersion school.
The cost: They sold their car, lived frugally and arranged a home swap. For four years, Duffy deferred 20 per cent of her salary. They offset hefty airfare costs by using a travel app that scoured for deals.
Travel tip: Keep baggage light. "Sometimes (the kids) wanted things. And then the question was: 'Are you willing to carry that for the remainder of the trip?' And it always came down to: 'No.'"

Family: Lisa Kisch, her husband and two kids, ages eight and 10
Home: Toronto
Travel dates: Jan. 3, 2017 to July 2017
Where they went: Mexico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, England, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Israel, Italy and Croatia.
How they handled school: Kisch discussed pulling her kids out of Grades 3 and 5 with teachers, who were very supportive. But her school board doesn't provide materials for home schooling. Kisch loaded e-readers with library books, and bought math workbooks.
Income: Rental income from their home and a cottage covers both mortgages and provides about $2,500 a month extra. Plus, Lisa continues to work online as a network marketing professional and receives a salary.
The cost: Mexico provided affordable comfort — a large two-bedroom house with pool in Merida for $2,500 a month. Uber rides, groceries and restaurants were cheap.

Day-to-day costs rose in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, but over the course of the trip, Kisch expects they'll spend about as much as they would living in Toronto.
Travel tip: Quell tantrums by picky eaters with help from food ordering apps that do the translating for you. "The day I got here I tried to order pizza ... and it was an epic fail," Kisch recalls of her nascent Spanish-speaking skills.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro SPORTS

"I've waited so long for this opportunity": Dalton Pompey, who is set to make his first World Baseball Classic appearance for Canada next week

Reds striker makes plea for acceptance

MLS

Altidore speaks out about political divisions in U.S.

U.S. soccer captain Michael Bradley has shared his political views in recent days. Now Jozy Altidore, his Toronto FC and U.S. teammate, is having his say on trying to end the division south of the border.

Speaking in an MLS Black History Month roundtable video, Altidore makes an eloquent plea for Americans to find a way to discuss their differences.

"It's hard to talk about politics with people. Everybody has a different view. It's a passionate topic," he says. "But I think that's the first step in terms of reaching, hopefully one day, a place where everybody can be kind of OK with somebody's else's opinion. You have to be. Right now the country is so divided in a way that a country like the U.S. shouldn't be.

"And that's because we haven't been listening to each other, whether it be blacks or whites, whether it be Republicans and Democrats. Whatever it is. We need to find a way, a peaceful way to sit down and voice our differences. I know it sounds very cliched but it needs to happen. Because things are going to get worse before they get better. And we don't want that."

The roundtable, taped over brunch in New York City and available on www.mlssoccer.com, features Altidore, U.S. women's international Lynn Williams, New York Times reporter Greg Howard, FC Harlem founder Irv Smalls and moderator Kevin Brown.

The 27-year-old Altidore, who recently won his 100th cap for the U.S., calls America the greatest country in the world. But he says the exchange of views is sorely needed given the current political landscape.

"I love (the U.S.) but I think that conversation needs to happen. It's a strong conversation, it's an awkward one but it makes for a better tomorrow, for sure."

In an interview after training Wednesday, Altidore said people may not agree after that conversation "but at least you understand what is going on on that side and why that side believes what they believe. And I think that's something that's really important and we need to get back to." THE CANADIAN PRESS

BMO FIELD

Toronto FC unveiled its new Wall of Honour at BMO Field.

- Located next to the box office at Gate 1 it celebrates the franchise's "iconic moments" and MLS honours.
- Observed on the wall are the 1976 Soccer Bowl champion Toronto Metros-Croatia and TFC's 2016 MLS Eastern Conference championship among others.

Jozy Altidore has 100 caps for the United States under his belt. KENT HORNER/GETTY IMAGES

UFC

Highly anticipated title bouts top card

While the UFC waits for its mainstream stars to return to the octagon, the promotion has booked a UFC 209 card that appeals directly to its serious fight fans.

Conor McGregor, Ronda Rousey, Jon Jones, Georges St-Pierre and Brock Lesnar are all in various states of inactivity, suspension or retirement. Only St-Pierre has a fight currently booked, and it doesn't have a date.

> **I'm going to run circles all over this guy.**
> Tony Ferguson

So Saturday's show from in Las Vegas is packed with talent, if not worldwide name recognition. In the main event, welterweight champion Tyron Woodley and Stephen (Wonderboy) Thompson meet in a rematch four months after their entertaining majority draw. Moments before that, rising stars Tony Ferguson and Khabib Nurmagomedov will have one of the year's most anticipated bouts for the interim lightweight championship.

If two title fights aren't enough, the pay-per-view leads off with heavyweights Mark Hunt and Alistair Overeem. Hunt happens to be suing the UFC, president Dana White and Lesnar, alleging racketeering and fraud in the circumstances around his fight last July at UFC 200 against Lesnar, who subsequently failed a doping test. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

I definitely think we're better than the league we're in.
Toronto Wolfpack captain Craig Hall ahead of playing the London Skolars in England's third tier of rugby league on Saturday.

It's nice to have the confidence of the coach.
Argos QB Ricky Ray on new head coach Marc Trestman, who has already named Ray his choice starter ahead of the season.

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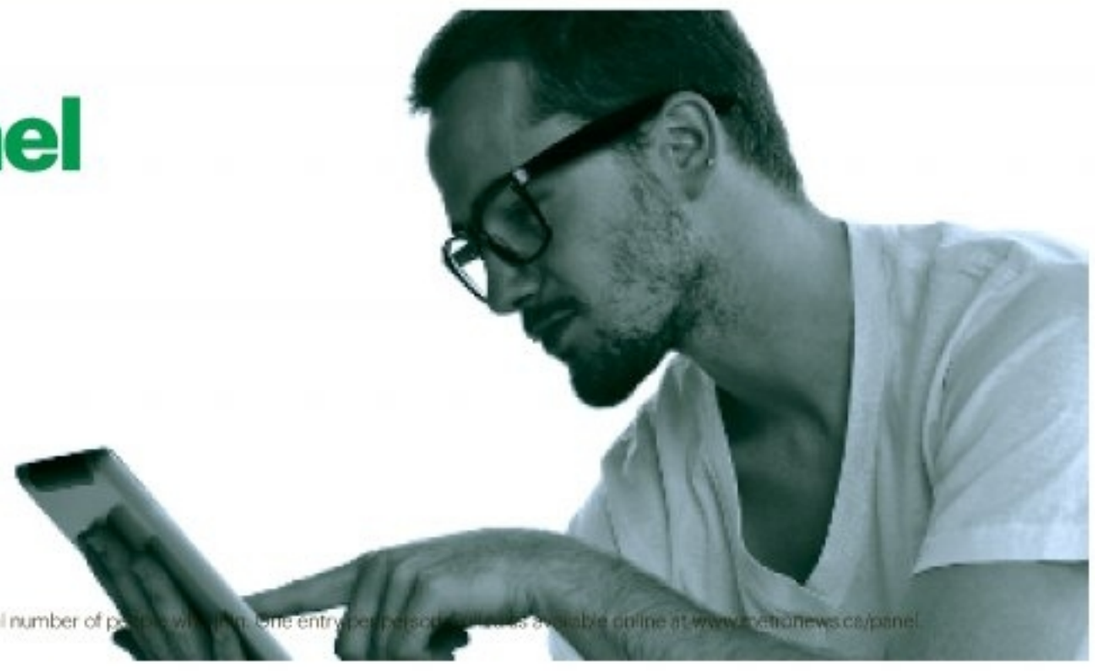

*No purchase necessary. Entry period is Monday, February 6, until Friday, March 31, 2017 at 11:59 pm. Odds of winning depend on total number of p... one entry per person ... available online at www.metronews.ca/panel

Leman loosens up on slopes

SKI CROSS

Calgary racer striving for World Cup 2nd in 16-17 finale

Vincent Man
Metro | Toronto

All it took for Brady Leman to earn his first World Cup victory in five years was to stop caring so much. After finishing third overall last season, the Calgary ski cross racer set high expectations for 2016-17. He now admits that doing so only held him back.

"This year I put a lot of pressure on myself to follow that up and exceed last season, which was a tall task," Leman told Metro by phone earlier this week. "I was really stressed out about trying to match that and once I got over that, went back to just racing, things started coming together a lot more easily."

Even with the added stress, Leman was able to race to a pair of second-place finishes before the Christmas break. Once he eased up on the self-imposed pressure, he grew comfortable on the mountain and went on a hot streak.

Brady Leman
GETTY IMAGES

The 30-year-old rallied for three more silver medals before capturing gold in Idre Fjall, Sweden, on Feb. 12. In the final, Leman broke away from the pack and made the lead stick as he crossed the finish line just ahead of France's Arnaud Bovolenta.

It was his third career World Cup win and first since the 2011-12 season.

"It was really satisfying to get back on to the top of the podium and take a win because it had been that long," Leman said.

"That's a funny racetrack that one. It's so straight and fast at the bottom that being out front is a stressful spot.... All you can do is put your head down and hope nobody goes by you."

Leman sits second overall on the World Cup circuit this season and appeared poised to gain more ground on leader Jean Frederic Chapuis of France last week in Miass, Russia. A 26th-place showing, however, set the Canadian back and guaranteed Chapuis the Crystal Globe with a 112-point lead in the standings and a single race remaining on the calendar.

Leman was hoping to capitalize on Chapuis' 27th-place finish, but "mental errors" cost him valuable points and a chance at racing for the season's overall championship in the tour's final stop on Sunday at Blue Mountain in Collingwood, Ont.

"It's so tough to find that week-in, week-out consistency. It's easy to beat yourself up after a race like that," Leman said.

"I'd be lying if I said I didn't have a couple of daydreams about winning a Globe on home soil. But it's out of my hands at this point, which is too bad. It's still been a good season regardless of what happens this weekend." While the race for the overall championship is over, Leman's second place is still very much up for grabs. He currently carries an 11-point lead over Switzerland's Alex Fiva, who Leman says is one of his best friend's on tour.

"We have a lot of mutual respect for each other. Our team and the Swiss team get along very well," Leman said. "They're just good competitors. They race clean and they race hard. Those are the kind of guys you want to race against."

History tips the scales in Leman's favour. One of his two previous victories was earned at Blue Mountain in 2011-12, when he finished the season second overall.

"I feel like I have a real shot at (winning) here," he said. "We get such a good turnout at Blue Mountain that it's really motivating to try and be that guy, that Canadian that can do it on home soil and get the crowd fired up."

Brady Leman carries a slim second-place overall lead into the World Cup season finale this weekend in Collingwood, Ont.
LAURENT SALINO/AGENCE ZOOM/GETTY IMAGES

THIS WEEKEND

The Audi FIS Ski Cross World Cup this weekend at Blue Mountain is free to attend. Festivities and training start on Friday and run through Saturday before Sunday's races.

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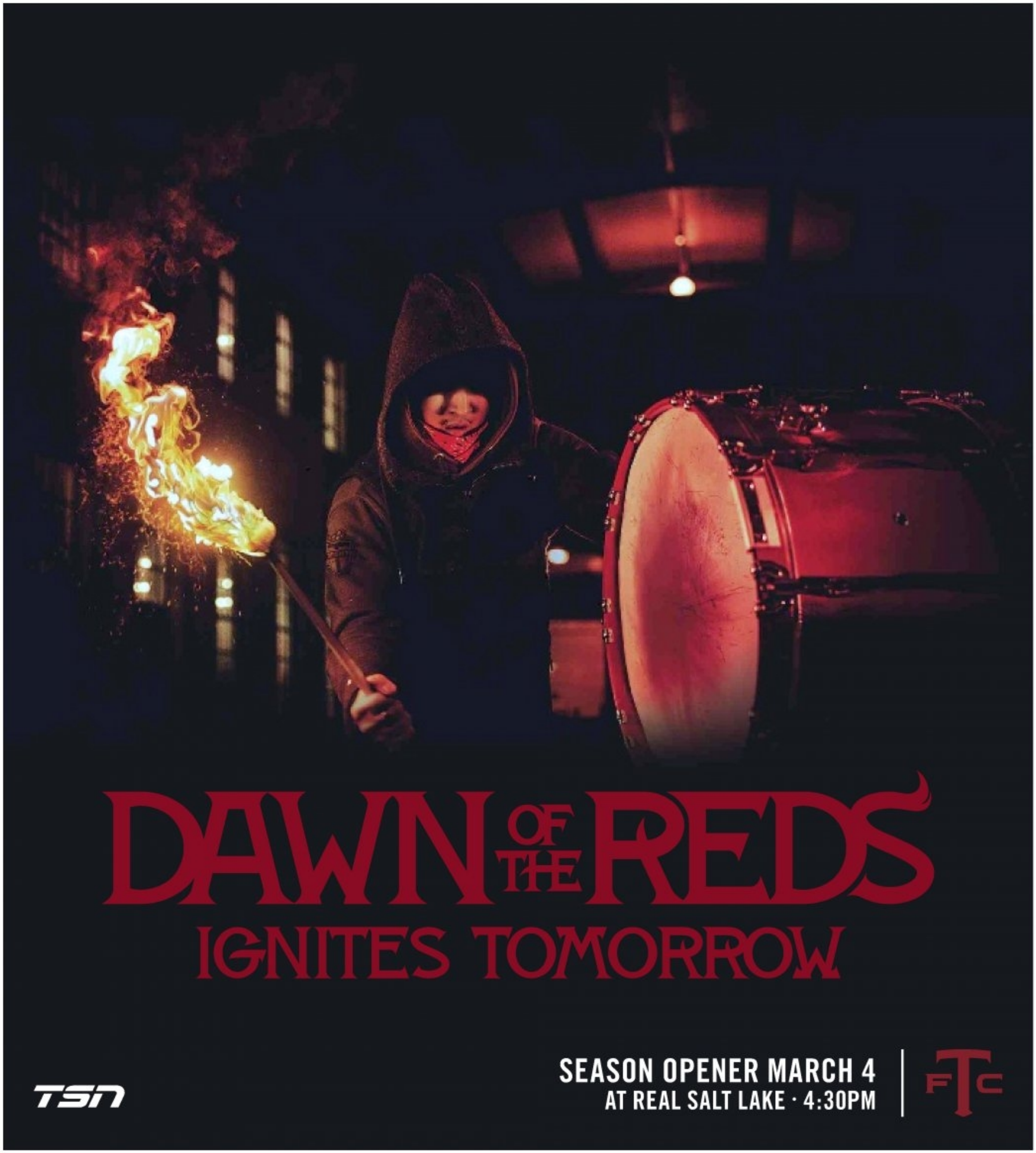

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NBA

Warriors breathe easier on Durant

Coach Steve Kerr was bracing for the worst after Kevin Durant injured his left leg. Instead, he and the Golden State Warriors were breathing a little easier on Thursday.

They expect their superstar forward to return — and perhaps during the regular season. And that sure beats the alternative.

"At first, we thought he was done for the year," Kerr said. "The second prognosis was way better than the first. Just given that sequence, I think he's feeling a lot better about things now than he was at first."

The Warriors had good reason to be nervous after Durant hyperextended his knee 93 seconds into Tuesday's loss at Washington. But they also had reason to be relieved on Thursday.

Kevin Durant
GETTY IMAGES

An MRI confirmed Durant sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee and bruised a bone in his leg. He's out indefinitely, but the Warriors expect their superstar forward to return this season.

"Our job now is to (continue) being us, continue to get wins, continue to play well, continue to build toward the playoffs and then when he's able to rejoin us, hopefully, we hit our stride and be ready to try to win another championship," Steph Curry said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOVING PIECES

- Golden State signed veteran forward **Matt Barnes** to take some of Durant's minutes.
- Also Thursday, the Cavs signed former Warriors centre **Andrew Bogut**.

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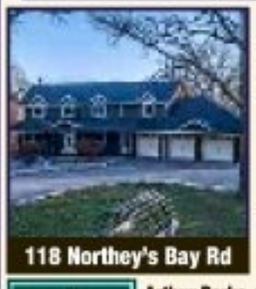

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PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

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Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 chopped red pepper
- 2 (14 oz) cans black beans, rinsed
- 1 (14 oz) can of chick peas, rinsed
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp maple syrup
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup shaved cheddar

Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onions and peppers.

2. Saute until the vegetables are softened.

3. Add the beans, tomato sauce, vinegar, maple syrup, cumin, chili powder, paprika and salt.

4. Simmer for 15 minutes. Serve on toasted whole grain bun and sprinkle with cheddar cheese.

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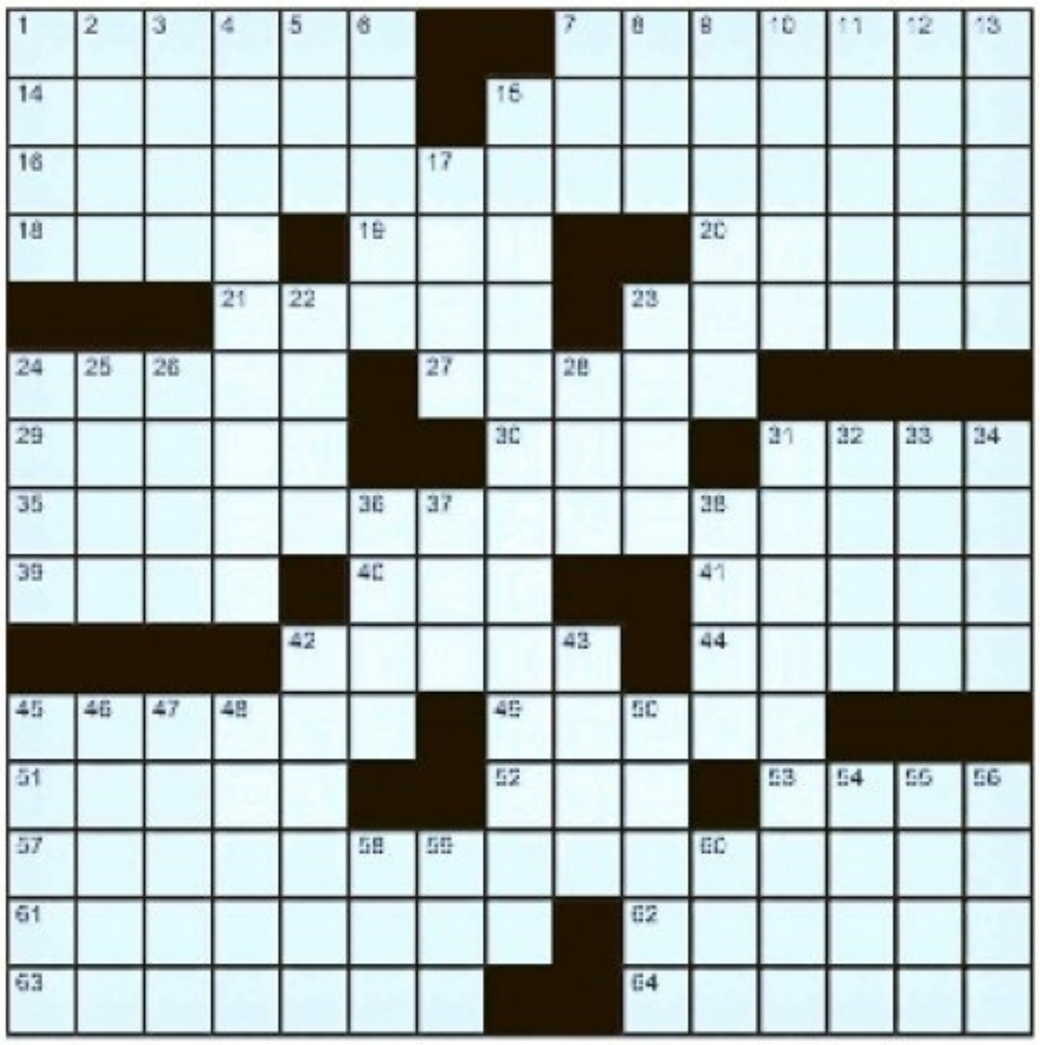

ACROSS
1. Garbo and Van Susteren
7. Most quick
14. Pick up on that sound: 2 wds.
15. Go-with-coffee cookies
16. Make a friendly gesture, as between neighbours: 4 wds.
18. "Desperate Housewives" role
19. WPM's 'P'
20. Freda of song
21. Bob or Doug McKenzie
23. Servings of chilled-in-moulds desserts
24. Verboten
27. Store promotions
29. Glade target
30. Assembled
31. Director Mr. Mendes'
35. Titanic accommodation: 3 wds.
39. Alternative magazine, __ Reader
40. Ad __ committee
41. Foreigner's "Cold __ __"
42. SNL's Mr. Michaels
44. "Scott Pilgrim __ __ World" (2010)
45. Noon
49. Record over
51. Struck all of __ (Surprised or disconcerted)
52. Web connector, briefly
53. Near, fancy-style
57. Earth is one, some believe Mars might have been one: 2 wds.
61. Tolkien's nasty creatures: 2 wds.
62. Necklace piece to keep tiny keepsakes
63. Clickety-click-clicks - makes a mistake - uses the backspace key - then does this
64. F's music equivalent: note + word

DOWN
1. President Reagan's Veep-turned-Prez
2. Raise
3. House's gutter locale
4. Casey and Finnegan's set: 2 wds.
5. Small island
6. Layovers
7. 'Terri' tail
8. Residue kind
9. Extents/ranges
10. Entire
11. Solvent sort, __ acetate
12. Office item, __ pad
13. Car's wheels
15. Celtic family band from Cape Breton: 2 wds.
17. Shoe width sizes, e.g.
22. Dutch astronomer, Jan __ (b.1900 - d.1992)
23. Transports for ritzy travellers
24. Bean curd
25. Mine passage
26. "__ Free" (1966)
28. Guitar legend Mr. Paul
31. Mount in Alberta; or, Gaelic word for an outsider (Jamie's nickname for Claire) on Scottish Highlands set series "Outlander" on Showcase
32. Somewhat: 2 wds.
33. Detroit, __.
34. Snick-or-__
36. Bok __ (Stir-fry ingredient)
37. "Full House" star Ms. Loughlin, briefly
38. Cleveland basketballers, briefly
42. Easily portable computer
43. Gaelic
45. "Real Time with Bill __"
46. 2005: "Can __ It Like That" by Pharrell feat. Gwen Stefani
47. Money-spent transaction
48. __ Mail (British newspaper)
50. Genesis fruit
54. "__ Dinka Doo" by Jimmy Durante
55. Will of "The Waltons"
56. ://www's start
58. Sister Sledge's "We __ Family"
59. Guess Who's lead singer's initials-sharers
60. __ Alamos, New Mexico

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might see new uses for something that you own today. Some of you will even see new ways to make money. Clever you! Ka-ching!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Take a realistic look in the mirror today, and ask yourself what you can do to improve your appearance. How can you create a better impression on your world?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something powerful and secretive is present in your life today. If you are focused and aware, whatever it is might introduce improvements into your world.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you will attract someone powerful to you. This might be a pleasant experience — or not.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your relationships with bosses, parents and VIPs will be intense and direct today. However, the outcome will be that the relationship is superior.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You might have a powerful discussion with someone about politics, religion or racial issues today. (It's tough to keep your shirt on if you have to get something off your chest.)

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today you might see a better way to deal with shared property or something that is jointly owned. You also might come to a better arrangement regarding an inheritance.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with partners and close friends will be emotional and strong today. People will show their feelings. Fortunately, things will be better after the dust settles.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Look for ways to introduce reforms and improvements to your job or where you work. Similarly, you might even see ways to improve your health.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Romance will be passionate and intense today. In fact, you might feel obsessed with something.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Family discussions will be intense today. However, the main focus will be introducing improvements to where you live. Don't get carried away. Avoid major theatrics.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You are so powerful and convincing today that you will be successful if you are in sales, marketing, teaching, acting or writing. No one will be able to resist your words of persuasion!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

				1				
	8		6				3	
9		5				6		1
			7		4		6	
3								5
	9		1		6			
5		2				9		8
	7				3		4	
				2				

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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2	7	1	9	3	4	6	5	8
6	9	5	7	1	8	2	4	3
8	3	4	5	6	2	7	1	9
5	8	3	6	4	7	9	2	1
7	1	2	8	5	9	4	3	6
4	6	9	3	2	1	8	7	5
9	4	8	1	7	3	5	6	2
3	5	7	2	9	6	1	8	4
1	2	6	4	8	5	3	9	7

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